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**LOCAL MAN SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR BRIBING AN IRS AGENT**

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that Jose A. Cardenas was sentenced today in Fort Worth, Texas, by the Honorable Terry R. Means, United States District Judge, to 24 months imprisonment and ordered to pay a \$5000 fine, following his guilty plea in April to bribing a public official, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(1)(A). Cardenas was ordered to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on September 13, 2004.

According to documents filed in court, at a meeting on May 10, 2001, Cardenas, acting as a representative for one of his clients whose business was being audited, offered an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) revenue agent \$1000 if he would lower the tax liability of his client's business to less than \$4000. The IRS agent immediately informed his supervisor of the bribe attempt and later phone conversations and meetings between Cardenas and the IRS agent were recorded.

The documents further state that two days later, the IRS agent met with Cardenas at Cardenas' office. During that meeting, Cardenas requested that the IRS agent reduce his client's audit by at least \$3000 or \$4000. Cardenas stated that he would pay the IRS agent to do so and also said that the more the IRS agent could reduce the audit, the more he would pay him. Cardenas indicated more than once that only he and the IRS agent were aware of the bribe. A few days later, on May 16, 2001, Cardenas also acknowledged that he and the IRS agent could get into trouble for what they were doing and in fact, what they were doing was illegal and could result in both of them losing their jobs and going to jail. At that meeting, the IRS agent showed Cardenas the revised audit which showed a lower figure than what was actually due and owing. Cardenas stated that the revision was perfect. Cardenas then wrote the IRS agent a check for \$1000, referencing the IRS agent as a "consultant" on the check.

This case resulted from the investigative efforts of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Paul E. Gartner prosecuted the case.